

CAL. LABOR ORGANIZES POLITICALLY

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WHOLE NO. 543

WHAT SCHOOLMEN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LABOR UNIONS

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of a series of four installments of an article which appeared in the last month's issue of the American School Board Journal, the article re-printed in this paper at suggestion of Earl Moorhead, secretary of San Jose Butchers Union 506, and member of the San Jose Board of Education.)

During the autumn quarter of the university a colleague asked me to speak to a group of future teachers on the subject: What Teachers Should Know About Unions. I welcomed the opportunity, primarily because it has been my good fortune to live in two worlds, labor and education, at six-year intervals for the past 18 years. And, periodically throughout these years, I have tried to interpret teachers and teacher problems to trade-unionsists and trade-unions their role in society to teachers.

Now I am a teacher again after six exciting years as Director of Research and Education of CIO. From this experience and hundreds of sessions with workers, I have gleaned a few impressions of worker attitudes. I pass them on to you for what they are worth. My only request, before you accept or reject my conclusions, is go find out for yourself! The opportunity to meet trade-unionsists, and their leaders, is available to practically every teacher. Begin by asking your pupils if any of their fathers belong to unions. Then get acquainted with them, go to a union meeting, pick up some union literature, and read it! Do these simple things and a new world will open to you, and you will not need second-hand impressions such as these which follow.

Teachers and school officials who would know labor should begin with an understanding of the social and economic composition of the larger American community and then follow with acquaintanceship with their immediate one and they will discover our American community is increasingly becoming one of wage earners—men and women dependent on weekly or monthly pay checks for their daily bread. Most recent figures report 46,000,000 Americans in this category, and the largest component of the group are industrial workers, men and women who produce the goods and services which make our material civilization the envy of the world. Sixteen million of these workers are organized in the AFL, CIO, UMW, the RR brotherhoods, and independent unions. Thousands of the unorganized are being organized yearly, and we can look forward to an organized labor movement of 30 to 40 millions or more in the not too distant future. These millions here, and their brothers around the world, are on the march. Theirs is the base from which the political decisions of uncounted tomorrows will be made. Because this is so true, social science teachers in particular should understand why those individuals and groups who are interested in power for revolutionary ends gravitate to the labor movement, and seek to control it. Included among these groups are the Communists, both Stalinists and Trotskyites, several denominations of Socialists, the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists, etc. When teachers understand these struggles and if possible watch them in process, they will begin to understand what is happening in France, in China, and to a greater or less degree in every nation of the world. They may even understand the nature of the revolution they are living through and which they are called on to interpret almost daily. They may even understand that there can be no peace until the upward-thrusting masses have achieved an equilibrium between their present desires and their ultimate fulfillment.

CIO TACTICS, CONTRACT HIT IN TAXI TIF

Apparent efforts of the CIO to "raid" the AFL Teamsters Union 890 in signing up of taxicab drivers recently for four firms being picketed by the AFL union, rather than to gain wages, hours and conditions for these drivers, were flayed by Business Agent Albert Harris of Local 890 last week. Harris pointed out that the CIO "contract" with Tex-Homa, Ace, Dependable and City taxicab companies in Salinas calls for a 10-hour minimum day (no maximum) and a "wage scale" of 50 per cent of the "take."

In contrast, the AFL contracts with Black & White, Checker, Yellow and Packard taxicab companies call for a guaranteed daily pay of \$8.00 or 50 cent of receipts, whichever is greater, and sets up a 9-hour work day.

The AFL agreement calls for a week's vacation with pay after a year of service. There is no vacation clause in the CIO "agreement," Harris added.

Charging that the CIO signed the four firms behind the AFL picket lines, Harris warned all unions in the area to beware "CIO" raiding tactics, especially where an employer may want to destroy all unionism in a particular craft or industry.

people want to be more than mere automatons. A recent poll best illustrates this frustration of workers; 70 per cent of those sampled were unhappy at their job, while some 85 per cent of any equal number of professional and administrative people said they were happy at theirs. Another study indicated that 46 per cent of management thought wages were the chief concern of workers and contributed most to industrial peace. On the other hand only 8 per cent of the workers believed wages were the first consideration. So, perhaps workers are not too different from creative teachers who receive their satisfactions in their teaching, and who deserve adequate pay primarily because it frees them to develop the more abiding satisfactions.

(Continued next week)

UNIONS BACK PEP STRIKE WITH CARDS

Unions in the Monterey area gave full support of Culinary Alliance and Bartenders Union 483 last week by mailing postcards to all members pointing out the need for further co-operation by all people.

The cards, issued by the Monterey Peninsula Central Labor Council, AFL, bore the following message:

"The Pep Creameries, in Monterey, Watsonville, and Santa Cruz, are being picketed by members of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Union, with the sanction and approval of the A. F. of L. Central Labor Councils.

"You, your family, and your friends, are urged by American Federation of Labor members to respect the picket lines and to patronize only the Union restaurants and creameries in the Monterey Bay Area.

"Through your cooperation and assistance our economic pressure will be effective and the labor dispute will be more quickly settled."

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Painters Ask Strike Okay At Creamery

Strike sanction was requested from the Monterey County Central Labor Union at Salinas last week by Painters Union 1104 against Sal's Creamery, 611 East Alisal St., Salinas.

Business Agent Carl Lara of Local 1104 said the creamery management had been engaging non-union painters for decoration and painting work despite his efforts to win the work for union men.

Tri-Cities Painting Co. of Monterey has started painting of the new city swimming pool and buildings in Sherwood Park, Salinas, using local men. This firm also has contract for painting the new Arcade building in the South Main street business area.

Members of the apprentice training class of Painters Union 1104 will paint the interior of the offices of Local 1104, Business Agent Carl Lara reports. This project, part of the training course of study, will consist of work of putting a grain-eared maple finish on the lower half of the walls, he said.

Salinas IBEW Awaits Contract For PG&E Work

Electrical workers of IBEW Local 243 of Salinas were staying away from work on the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. steam plant project at Moss Landing last week with their dispute over travel time pay still not settled.

However, according to Carl Lara, union representative, a subcontract for electrical work on the project is expected to be let by general contractors Stone & Webster during this week and a settlement of the travel time pay dispute is due shortly thereafter. Lara said international union officials have been assisting in an effort to win the travel pay for electricians, who have claimed that their contract calls for travel time from Salinas to the job.

Contact was made by Business Representative Lara for Electrical Workers' Union 243 of Salinas last week with the Rundle Neon Sign Co. in regard an agreement for men working in the Salinas area. Lara reports that the firm was under the impression that its San Jose agreement contract covered the Salinas work and added that he expects the firm to sign the Salinas agreement shortly.

Harris Attends Produce Driver Council Meeting

Albert Harris, president and business representative of General Teamsters Union 890 of Salinas, was in Los Angeles last week-end to attend a meeting of the executive board of the National Produce Council.

A member of the board which serves the council in its activity in United States and Canada, Harris said the meeting was called to make preliminary arrangements for the national convention of the council in Chicago during April.

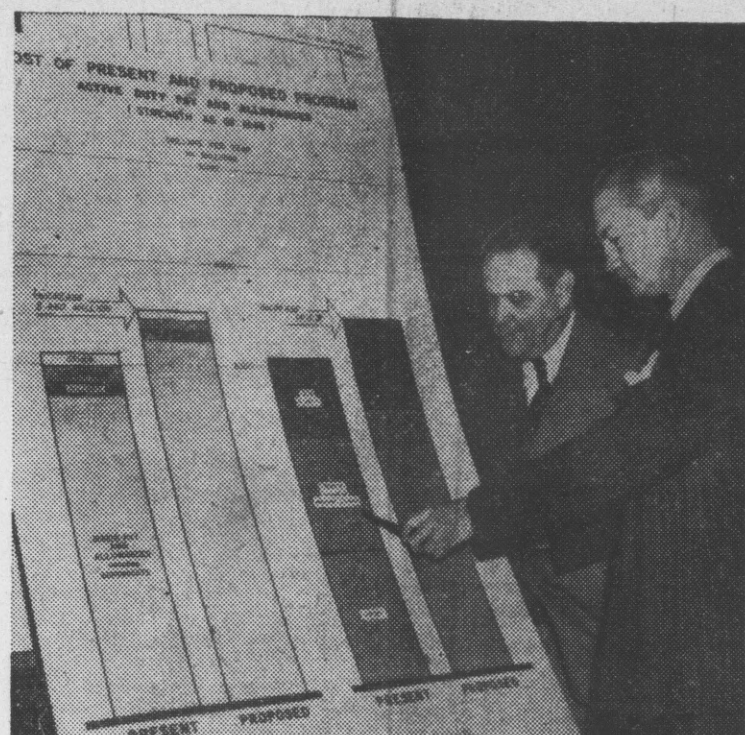
Culinary Shows Record Growth

With a dozen new members through initiation and as many more transferred into the union for work in new restaurants, Culinary Alliance 467 of Salinas has hit a new membership high, Secretary Bertha A. Boles reports.

The 24 new members were added in the past two weeks and more were expected this week, she said. Local 467 is currently negotiating with S. H. Kress Co. officials for an agreement to cover the fountain in the Kress store now under construction on South Main Street in Salinas, Mrs. Boles added.

'Snack Shack' Signs Contract

Agreement with Culinary Alliance 467 of Salinas was signed last week by new owners and operators of "Connie's Snack Shack," on Highway 101 north of Salinas. Secretary Bertha A. Boles, of Local 467, said new owners of the restaurant are Connie Pryor and Ed Volkner.



BIG WAGE BOOSTS FOR BRASS—Defense Sec. James V. Forrestal tells Chairman Paul J. Kilday (D., Tex.) of a House Armed Services subcommittee how much his proposed pay increases for military personnel will cost. Under the plan the lowest grade GIs get about 3% top flight brass about 40%.

Medics Blasted for Fighting National Health Ins. Plans

(AFL Release)

Washington, D.C.—The Committee for the Nation's Health declared that the American Medical Association was trying to hide its opposition to national health insurance behind "a fancy press-relations job."

In a broadside attack on the association's widely publicized 12-point health program, the committee asserted that it was "designed to obscure the AMA's stubborn opposition to any program which would bring medical care within the means of the average man."

"The AMA's only proposal for meeting that national problem is the same as before—voluntary health insurance," the committee stated. "It has not moved an inch on this basic issue, despite all the window dressing."

DOESN'T FILL BILL

The statement on behalf of the committee, which is supporting the drive for enactment of the Truman administration's national health insurance program, was issued by its chairman, Dr. Channing Frothingham of Boston. The committee is made up of prominent business, professional and labor figures including David Sarnoff, Gerald Swope, Eleanor Roosevelt, William Groves and Mrs. Albert D. Lasker.

"Voluntary health insurance has proved it cannot meet the nation's needs," said Dr. Frothingham, who has twice been president of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

"Despite the AMA's frantic effort to promote such programs in order to head off compulsory insurance, the voluntary medical insurance plans favored by the AMA cover less than a sixth of the population and offer only limited protection. They are either wholly controlled by the AMA's state and local medical societies or are merely cash benefits paying a fraction of medical costs through insurance companies."

FANCY PRESS JOB

"In reading the AMA program, it would be well for the layman to remember that AMA recently hired a new and clever publicity firm for what is reported to be the biggest public relations fee in history which the association hopes to pay from the \$3,500,000 propaganda fund it is trying to collect by assessing its members \$25 each.

"That publicity firm has begun to pay off. Its first achievement is a fancy press relations job designed to obscure the AMA's stubborn opposition to any program which would bring medical care within the means of the average man. The AMA's only proposal for meeting that national health problem is the same as before—voluntary health insurance. It has not moved an inch on this basic issue, despite all the window dressing."

COVER ONLY ONE-SIXTH

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protection, they are a snare and a delusion.

HAVE TO BE PAUPER

"The AMA proposes that government funds, provided by the taxpayers, be used to aid these private programs so that they can take in 'indigent and medically indigent' persons. The AMA's own statistics show that 80 percent of the population—all those with incomes under \$5000 a year—are not able to meet the expenses of serious illness out of their own resources. The AMA's so-called program means that millions of self-respecting American families would have to be labelled as 'medically indigent,' after an investigation of their personal finances, before they could get the government aid the AMA proposes."

Real Estate Boys Try Mass Pressure

Washington.—An uproar heard in the House Office Building here around noon February 16 was identified as coming from a large and angry group of well-dressed middle-aged men and women attending a committee hearing on rent control.

The group represented property owner associations, here to exert direct pressure to break rent controls. They packed the hearing room and filled the corridor outside with remarks about lost savings and the threat of socialism. Typical of testimony offered by their representatives was the statement by Edward Settevig of Minneapolis: "Is not the control, ownership and regulation of housing and its tenants the first step by all nations who eventually go communist or socialist?"

Capitol observers speculated as to whether the big time lobbying organizations were switching from their usual methods to an attempt at mass pressure, in an effort to make wavering congressmen forget the November 1948 elections.

Tickets Due For AFL Dance

Tickets were expected to be issued this week for the coming benefit dance being sponsored by the AFL Central Labor Council in Salinas to aid the American Red Cross fund campaign. Committee members said last week the date of the dance, to be held in the Alisal Community Hall (formerly the Old Barn), had not been set but that the affair would be during March.

Webster Named To Carp. Meet

George Webster, long an official and leader of Carpenters Union 1323 of Monterey, was named delegate from this union to the California State Council of Carpenters convention in San Jose, this week-end.

State Prison Dispute End Thought Near

Settlement of the dispute between Monterey County unions and the state division which has charge of erecting the new \$10,000,000 state prison near Soledad, over use of convict labor on preliminary construction on the prison site, was believed reached last week.

Anson Boyd, state architect, was sent to Salinas by higher officials to inform unions that steps were being taken to have all work done henceforth by free labor under contract, and added that the big job will not be processed in form for call for bids until next month.

A letter from Governor Warren, to whom the dispute had been carried by the unions, added to Boyd's promise that free labor would be used henceforth.

George R. Harter, business agent of Carpenters Union 925 of Salinas and key figure in the protests against convict labor on the prison work, said unions having jurisdiction over the Soledad area were expecting calls for men at once.

Harter, Al Everly, business agent of Plumbers Union 503; Carl Lara, business representative for Electricians Union 243 and Painters Union 1104, and J. B. McGinley, business agent for Laborers Union 272, met with Boyd during his Salinas visit.

Action by the Monterey County Central Labor Union at Salinas in protesting the convict labor on warehouses, dairy barns and other work at the prison site was believed instrumental in bringing about favorable decisions from state authorities. Unions had threatened to picket the projects if the state did not act at once, it was reported.

New Chairman Picked by Joint Apprentice Body

W. K. Ward, head of the Salinas Armature Works and employer of motor winders who are members of Electrical Workers Union 243, was elected as new chairman of the Salinas Valley General Advisory Committee at last week's meeting.

Because of poor representation at the joint apprenticeship committee meeting, it was suggested that meetings henceforth include a dinner, films, or speakers.

While all unions with apprentices have representatives on the advisory committee, only three unions were represented at last week's meeting, Secretary Carl Lara, of Painters 1104 and Electricians 243, said.

Bette Breschini, recording secretary for the advisory committee, said business was mainly routine with exception of the selection of the new chairman.

NO MORE MEN NEEDED NOW AT MOSS LDG.

Business agents of various unions in Monterey County, especially those connected with the PG&E steam plant project at Moss Landing, issued an appeal this week for job aspirants to "stay away!"

Unions have enough local and nearby union men now on the lists for jobs at the Moss Landing plant to take care of all job openings until the end of June and are not listing any more prospective workers at the present time.

Agents George R. Harter, Carpenters; J. B. McGinley, Laborers; Al Everly, Plumbers; and Carl Lara, Electricians, report that any trip to the area until mid-summer is a "waste of time just now—the men won't even get to sign the roster for future work at this time!"

Pact Renewed!

American Sign Co. of Salinas, which signed new agreements with Electrical Workers 243 and with the Western States Conference of Pictorial Sign Artists, through Painters Union 1104, was renewing its union status, not signing first contracts, according to Carl Lara, union representative. This point was not made clear in last week's Labor News story about the new agreements. The firm has been under union agreement for eight years, Lara said.

New AFL League Shapes a Permanent Program; First Act is Support of Prop. 4

With all sections of the state from Eureka to San Diego well represented by officials and delegates from Central Labor Councils, Building Trades Councils and affiliated miscellaneous councils, who had worked in union in the last national and state election as the California Labor League for Political Action, an important meeting was held Saturday, Feb. 26th, in Hotel Californian, Fresno, with the result that it was decided to make this league a permanent organization and to start work immediately on an extensive campaign of education and organization.

The larger portion of the opening session was devoted to a discussion of the proposed platform and structure of the California Labor League For Political Education. Many questions were asked and various sections carefully analyzed, after which a motion to adopt as submitted was unanimously carried. The platform and plan of action which was adopted is in full as follows:

PLATFORM AND STRUCTURE OF CALIFORNIA LABOR LEAGUE FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION

Platform

During the 1948 elections, the California Labor League for Political Education demonstrated the effectiveness of political action by organized labor. The effectiveness of the campaign was in the prosecution of the American Federation of Labor's traditional non-partisan policy of judging every public officer by his record and not by his political affiliation. That policy still remains the objective of the California Labor League for Political Education. By non-partisanship is meant—and the League wishes to emphasize this—that when the detailed program is outlined and labor is united behind the candidates advocated by such a program, labor should support that candidate. If political unity is established, it will be very difficult for anyone to disrupt or divide the tremendous strength of labor.

The new-found political strength of labor is now housed in our California Labor League for Political Education.

The numerous trying problems faced by the labor movement within our state and nation are far from being solved today. It remains to be seen how far the 81st Congress will go in correcting the miserable record of the 80th Congress, and how much of that tragic failure will be overcome.

Already the anti-labor forces throughout the nation, as well as in California, are mobilizing all their resources to discredit labor by accusing it of intending to capture the government. This is far from the fact. Labor does not seek political power. It is determined to do everything possible to protect the interests of its members and the wage earners of this country by improving the living standards and strengthening the economy in every way necessary. For labor to attain such an objective, it must achieve the following program:

1. Outright repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and re-enactment of the Wagner Act.
2. Attacking the basic causes of inflation.
3. Stimulating production.
4. Expanding educational opportunity for all.
5. Solving our housing problem.
6. Attaining a more equitable taxation so that the burden of the low income groups will be considerably lightened.
7. Extending the Federal Old Age and Survivors' Insurance program and increasing the benefits to a more realistic level.
8. Organizing a comprehensive and adequate health insurance plan.
9. Increasing the minimum wage to \$1 per hour.
10. Restoring an effectively functioning Labor Department.
11. Enactment of the President's Civil Rights program.
12. Establishing a policy of democratic security in the international field by the support of the Marshall Plan.
13. Supporting the development and expansion of the Central Valley Project as formulated by the Bureau of Reclamation.

There are many additional measures and proposals in which the League will take an active interest, for or against, such as liberalization of the Displaced Persons Act, the establishment of a National Science Foundation, etc. The omission of any particular measure from this list of major legislative objectives should not and does not imply any lack of interest.

On a statewide level, we wish to implement these objectives as they apply to California. Our general legislative program in the current session of the State Legislature is based on an application of these objectives in the bills that have been formulated and submitted by us.

To achieve these aims, the California Labor League for Political Education shall be continued on a permanent basis. We must perfect

and improve our Leagues and create them where they do not yet exist. The function of the League in the period between election campaigns shall be to supply information and education to the membership and to the public at large. This will include periodical reports on issues before Congress, the voting records of our state legislators on key bills, and the action of individual congressmen generally.

The League shall furnish to leaders of farm, teacher, small business and professional groups, information and data to keep them enlightened on matters affecting them and requiring their support. Every effective media of education and information shall be utilized to explain the League's position and activities. Immediate steps shall be taken to improve co-operative relationship between the California Labor League for Political Education and farm, professional, liberal, non-partisan, and all labor groups.

Structure

I. A. Appropriate area Labor Leagues for Political Education should be established throughout the state, suitable and corresponding to the needs of the various Central Labor Councils in the respective areas.

B. In order to effectively mobilize the voters in these districts these Leagues should be established, whenever possible, to parallel and comprise the territory of the Congressional Districts in the State of California. Where conditions do not permit the formation of such Congressional District units, then the Council should organize the League to comprise as large a part of the territory within that Congressional District as is possible, and establish close relations with other Leagues that may function in that district or which may overlap into that district.

C. These Leagues should establish and work with all organizations and individuals in the community in sympathy and in agreement with the aims and objectives of the League.

D. These Leagues should elect regular officers and hold regular meetings. The main body should not meet too often, since such an inconvenience might discourage greater attendance than if the meetings were held at properly spaced intervals.

E. The League should organize itself by establishing the following committees:

1. Public Relations Committee.
2. Publicity Committee.
3. Education Committee.
4. Speakers Committee.
- a. Labor
- b. General public
- c. Republican organizations
- d. Democratic organizations
- e. Veterans' organizations
- f. Miscellaneous organizations
- g. Women's organizations
- h. Professional organizations
- F. The Leagues should seek to have a centralized committee to provide for the precincting of the membership of the affiliated organizations as well as the individual members. Where such is not possible, the local affiliated organizations should be encouraged to have this precincting of its members accomplished and made available for use by the League's precincting committee.
- G. State Assembly District Committees should be established, as well as State Senatorial District Committees.

II. A. All affiliated organizations should try to organize their forces on the same basis as the area Political Leagues, as outlined above. The League committees should be able to have someone looking after the same work in the local organizations in order to coordinate the activity on an area-wide basis.

B. Regular meetings should be held by the various committees set up by the area League, and they should arrange to meet the representatives of the local Leagues designated to carry on the respective activities. These meetings should be organized on a Congressional District basis, Assembly District basis, and State Senatorial District basis.

III. A. The statewide committee will seek to coordinate the various area League committees by exchanging material and directives and by holding conferences in the course of the development of the campaign.

(Continued on Page 2)

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R. Fenchel, LaborersPRESS COMMITTEE AT MONTEREY
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LABOR MUST ACT NOW

It is not for mere sentimental reasons that labor organizations are taking the initiative in holding political meetings all over the United States at which delegates from labor organizations are discussing ways and means by which the men and women of labor can make the best use of their political power at the many elections which lie ahead of us.

What is bringing home to thinking members of our labor organizations a realization of the absolute necessity of this political activity at this time is the determined resistance that is manifesting itself on the part of the opponents of labor against all proposed legislation that is at all favorable to the organized workers.

Not only is labor encountering the most bitter opposition to practically every bit of legislation which labor is seeking to have enacted by our national Congress or our state legislatures but hostile anti-labor laws are being introduced in practically every legislative body in the land.

To meet and stop this intense anti-labor campaign everywhere labor must resolve itself into a political fighting machine that stays in continuous operation the whole year around. The days of merely waiting are over. From now on nothing but the most active political resistance on our part can save us from destruction.

ONE BATTLE THAT IS ON

Among the many battles in which labor will have to take the leading part from now on is that of establishing a practical and efficient health insurance plan for all our people. Already the interests that would prevent any such plan from ever becoming a reality are busy raising an enormous campaign fund. Articles are appearing in magazines and newspapers purporting to give the pros and cons on this question and already many people are badly muddled in regard to what all this heated argument is about.

Last July 5th the Labor government of Great Britain put into effect a fairly comprehensive health insurance plan which guarantees all its citizens medical and dental care, as well as hospitalization. Instead of being the horrible example of socialized medicine, which it has frequently been painted as being, it is working out in practice far better than many expected it would. Even doctors and dentists, who whined pitifully against it before the plan was started last July, are learning now that it works much better than they had predicted.

Just as labor and the people established our public school system and then secured the teachers needed to conduct them, so labor and the people themselves must establish their own hospitals and health insurance and secure their doctors, dentists and nurses to man them, as needed. This is one battle that is already on and labor is lining up to fight for this form of protection until it is established securely for all our people.

SALVAGING WORST FEATURES

That the forces, whose pressure put the Taft-Hartley bill through the 80th Congress, will use every trick they know to salvage as much as possible of the Taft-Hartley slave bill is being demonstrated every day that passes. What this last ditch fight is all about is a desperate and well-organized effort to salvage the very worst features of this law, which when and if put into general practice, would have the effect of wrecking our unions.

The heaviest fighting is centered about legalizing scabbing and strikebreaking and restoring injunctions in labor disputes. The fact that the American people at the last national election issued a clearcut mandate to repeal the Taft-Hartley law does not deter the anti-labor group in Congress from using all the means they have at their command to save those parts of the slave law that would have the teeth necessary for outlawing the unions. That is the chief purpose of the Taft-Hartley law and if they can salvage the most destructive features of this law at the same time they pretend to repeal it they will have largely won their battle against labor.

The only sensible answer the party in power can give to all this is to do what was promised before the election. That was to repeal the Taft-Hartley law and re-enact the Wagner law as it was until the Taft-Hartley law displaced it. Any other course is likely to spell disaster for Democrats in 1950.

It is finally beginning to dawn on the minds of the men and women of organized labor that unless they use their political arm diligently they will lose what they have gained through their trade unions by having them outlawed.

We trust that the daily press will give the same publicity to rising meat prices that they did to the drops. They might also point out that packers bought this same meat from producers at near-record lows.

If you are not registered it is not too early to go to the courthouse of your county and have it done.

Quit Stalling, Act Now On T-H, West Coast Labor Asks

Two Months Pass And T-H Law Is Not Yet Repealed

Vigorous warning came this week from key union leaders of the West Coast on the failure of Congress to observe the November election mandate and repeal the Taft-Hartley law, after nearly two months of Congress in session.

Demands that President Truman and the Administration get busy on fulfilling this and other pre-election pledges such as low-cost housing and health insurance came from leaders in the building and metal trades unions of San Francisco and other major West Coast cities.

Presence of the law still on the books is aiding and abetting anti-union employers in their constant effort to beat down unions in their quest for decent conditions and adequate wages, these leaders point out.

Many unions are planning negotiations at this time, and with T-H

February Tribute

It is fitting in this birthday month of two great Americans that we pause to pay them tribute.

To George Washington, our first president, who led the ragged armies that gave us our first taste of real liberty and independence, we are indebted.

But in Lincoln, the Great Commoner, labor finds a man whom we can not only revere for his great understanding and high purpose, but whom we can look to for inspiration in the ever continuing battle for the best things of life.

His wisdom in all things affecting humanity lives after him, for he understood man's weakness and aspirations and was willing to be tolerant of the one to advance the other.

He knew the part that labor plays in this economy of ours and his pertinent words on the subject should live a long time in our own memories.

"It is assumed that labor is available only in connection with capital," Lincoln said. "that no one labors unless someone else, owning capital, somehow, by the use of it, induces him to labor. Labor is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruits of labor and could not have existed if labor had not first existed."

This gem, along with many others from his lips or his pen, endears Lincoln to us. It is such pronouncements that stimulate the thoughts of all open-minded people, and make them ever aware of labor in our way of life.

Greater use of soybean oil in mayonnaise and other salad dressings now seems likely, since chemists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture have demonstrated that refining the oil with citric acid improves both its flavor and keeping quality. This department promises to expand the market for soybean oil and it may mean a lower cost of salad oil or dressings to consumers.

still around it is causing much unnecessary complication, confusion and hardship, which was one of the prime objects of its framers, but which is hurting labor-management relations and industrial peace. The law won't detract from any wage goals unions have in sight, although some employers have hopes in this direction.

A mass protest to President Truman and Congress is now taking shape on the West Coast, as the result of the two-month stall on Taft-Hartley. Unions are hot about it, and they expect action on election pledges.

Employer groups, daily newspapers, radio commentators, "public opinion polls" (still at it), are hammering away on a theme that "the public wants the Taft-Hartley law" despite the clear mandate of November 2nd. This is typical of the stubborn, persistent tactics of greed-motivated employer elements who consider it an essential

CONSTRUCTION

Sausalito schools, plans OK, \$413,302.

Oregon, Detroit Dam, Santiam River, Mill City, Army taking bids, \$20 million.

Stockton sewage plant, bids due, \$275,000.

L. A. Hollywood Parkway, undercrossing at Heliotrope Dr., \$506,752, Chas. MacClosky Co., SF.

University of Alaska building, bids due, \$975,000.

Boyes Springs, Boys Home, \$1,230,000, Williams & Burrows, Burlingame.

Fresno, Panoche substation, South of Mendota, plans on, \$3,157,000 PG&E.

University of S. F., memorial library, plans \$50,000.

Alaska housing, Anchorage, Juneau, Lewis Constr. Co., \$15 million.

Stockton, shopping center, plans up, \$500,000.

Moffett Field, Ames Lab., low: Carriso and Gautier, SF, \$566,087.

Concord schools, bids due, \$700,000.

San Mateo, school bond issue in May, \$1% million.

Redwood City bowling alley, Land Dev. Co., \$400,000, Mills Constr. Co., SF.

Inyokern, Naval Ordn. Sta., duplex houses, \$1,920,000. Haddock Engineers, Montebello.

This notice appeared briefly on the bulletin board of a government machine shop: "Girls: If your sweater is too large for you, look out for the machines. If you are too large for the sweater, look out for the machinists."

The post war slogan: "Two families in every garage."

daily business ritual to talk, think, and act against unions—constantly!

Labor people, assuming promises will be lived up to, meanwhile take a beating at the hands of the more cunning, more persistent employer elements. This is the story after each election.

Congress now operates on a "letter-count" basis. Employer groups are flooding the capital with mail. Labor mail has been light.

Union members are strongly urged to write to the two California senators and their respective congressmen. Do it today!

State AFL Organizes Politically

(Continued from Page 1)

IV. A. The immediate activity of the League should be to concentrate on getting the membership to become registered voters. This campaign should extend beyond the members of the League and embrace the whole area, so that the maximum number of citizens therein will be induced to become registered voters.

B. The Leagues should formulate, in sufficient time before elections, as comprehensive plans as possible, to assure a maximum turnout at the polls by the members and the citizens of the community.

The meeting was presided over by John F. Shelley, president of the League, while C. J. Haggerty, secretary of the League, read the various proposals submitted to the meeting, and gave detailed reports of work done by the League during the last election campaign. He also presented during the afternoon session a comprehensive analysis of the various bills now pending in the State Legislature that are of interest to labor. It is planned to publish this analysis as soon as it can be completed. Interesting reports were made in the afternoon on what various local branches of the League have accomplished. Among the localities presenting such reports were San Diego, Humboldt County, San Mateo, San Francisco, Orange County and Vallejo.

SUPPORT PROP. 4

During the morning session Dr. Newell Perry was given 15 minutes to explain why his organization was sponsoring a petition for repealing the present pension law, which was adopted last November as Proposition No. 4, while A. McLain, who drafted the proposal, was given 15 minutes to speak against the initiative being circulated to repeal it. Following this debate a statement was adopted putting the League squarely on record as being opposed to this movement which is seeking to secure the repeal of the present pension measure.

GRIN or GROAN

A building had this sign posted on it: "For Sale. Any reasonable offer will be rejected."

Sign on a California lingerie shop: "Sally's Panties Shantee."

Young couples seem to get along best when near relatives are far away.

An old lady was visiting a convict in the state penitentiary. "And what is your name, my good man?" she asked.

"999," was the answer.

"Oh, but that's not your real name," the old lady said.

"Now, just me pen name," he answered.

Every married man's pay envelope shows the effect of the feminine touch.

The Ingrate—An old gentleman tumbled over a five-barred gate just in time to save himself from an angry bull in the pasture. "You brute!" he spluttered, shaking his fist at the infuriated animal, "and I've been a vegetarian all my life!"

Only One Out—Prospective Roomer: "This window is quite small. It wouldn't be much good in an emergency." Landlady: "There ain't going to be any emergency, mister. My terms are cash in advance."

Hotel Clerk (haughtily): "Are you a guest of the house?" Patron: "Heck, no! I'm paying \$20 a day!"

"Ruth," moaned her long-suffering husband, "you promised you wouldn't buy a new dress. What made you do it?"

"Dear," replied the modern Eve, "the devil tempted me."

"Why didn't you say: 'Get thee behind me, Satan'?" the poor man inquired.

"I did," the woman replied sweetly, "and then he whispered over my shoulder: 'My dear, it fits you just beautifully in the back.'"

A magazine writer says a dog fills an empty place in man's life. This is especially true of the hot dog.

Optimistic bachelor: "Let's get married!"

Pessimistic spinster: "Good grief! Who'd have us?"

A Chinese had a toothache and phoned his dentist for an appointment.

"Two-thirty all right?" asked the dentist.

"Yes," replied the Chinese, "tooth hurtee, all right. What time I come."

At the end of the first week away from home on a new job, the young husband wrote to his wife: "Made foreman—feather in my cap."

After the second week he wrote: "Made manager—another feather in my cap."

After the third week he wired: "Sacked—send money."

To which she replied: "Use feathers. Fly home."

Not—"How did he die?" —But—"How did he live?"

Not—"What did he gain?"

But—"What did he give?"

Not—"What was his station?"

But—"Had he a heart?"

And—"How did he play His God-given part?"

These are the units to measure the worth

Of a man as a man, regardless of birth.

Jim: "My sister married one of the biggest doctors in town."

Jim: "Does he have any money?"

Jim: "Sure, he has. Do you think she married him for his health?"

Policeman—"Did you see the number of the car that knocked you down, madam?"

Woman—"No. But the woman in it wore a black turban trimmed with red and her coat was imitation fur."

"The Taft-Hartley Act isn't half bad," the speaker declared.

"No," the union man in the second row chirped in, "it's ALL bad!"

Husband: "You must think automobiles grow on trees."

Wife: "Silly! Everybody knows they come from plants!"

"I never saw a woman so anxious to get married. You shouldn't be so obvious about it."

"I have to be, I am at the in-between age."

"What do you mean by in-between age?"

"In-between eager and desperate."

He: "Pardon me, dear, but your stockings seem wrinkled."

She: "You brute! I have no stockings on."

Policeman—"Did you see the number of the car that knocked you down, madam?"

Woman—"No, but the woman in it wore a black turban trimmed with red and her coat was imitation fur."

What Is Free Enterprise?

By ED BIRD, Business Representative, Local 202, IBEW

The other evening I was lying on the settee reading the paper, the radio was playing, but except for a tune that brought back a memory or two I was not paying much attention to it. Then all at once the announcer said something about supporting the American system of Free Enterprise. I did not catch the first part of his statement but that mention of Free Enterprise started a puzzling chain of thought. I asked what exactly is Free Enterprise? Why is it being advertised like a new brand of vitamin pills? Who is trying to sell it and why? And as members of labor organizations should we buy it? To put it mildly, I asked myself one huge question—and believe it or not, I got myself some answers, or at least I think I did.

The way the term Free Enterprise is bandied around over the air and in the papers, some people who are not too well versed in the industrial drama now being enacted on the Management-Labor stage of this country are apt to jump to the conclusion that Free Enterprise is the panacea for all economic worries. To those well versed in the industrial drama it is just another wolf in sheep's clothing. Let us go back through the pages of history for a while. They say history repeats itself, so I am sure we will find something very, very similar to this "Free Enterprise" buried away somewhere, but rest assured it will have a totally different name.

CLASSICAL ECONOMICS

Way back in the 18th century we run into something called Classical Economics. I don't know exactly where it originated, nor do I care, but it had a tremendous impact on American business principles of that era, and strange to relate it still has. The Classical Economic theory, to use a familiar phrase, was: "The Lord helps those who help themselves, and the devil takes the hindmost." Following closely in the wake of Classical Economics came the doctrines of men like Smith, Spencer and Matthews, all champions of the untouchables, in this case, big business. Their call to arms was "Freedom." They wanted freedom of competition, freedom of trade, freedom of contract, and above all freedom from interference by the state or any organized social group.

Now picture the worker in that setup; yet those conditions existed for well over a century and a half. This was "Free Enterprise" on its white charger, trampling over the bodies of millions of American men and women, even children, in its insatiable lust for profits. True, it built colossal industrial empires, but only at the expense of the blood, toil, tears and sweat of the workers.

FINANCIAL DOMINATION

Now we must stop and determine whether this Free Enterprise, so widely advertised today, incorporates any of the Freedom clauses of twenty or thirty years ago. True enough, some of the old rugged individualism has gone but in its place we have a system of financial domination. When 15% of the population possesses 85% of the country's wealth you can rest assured that the 15% will dominate by fair means or foul, mostly foul, the 85%.

I remember back in the thirties, when F.D.R. was giving the 15% a bad time, the National Association of Manufacturers came out with a platform that sounded swell over the air and read well in an editorial but all it was a pot pourri of constitutional slogans we hear at election time from candidates who wish to avoid controversial issues.

Judging from the consistent attitude of the N.A.M. towards Labor and its most recent action in sponsoring the Taft-Hartley Act, we can have little doubt but that the same old wolf in sheep's clothing is still with us.

STOP! LOOK! LISTEN!

The mere fact that Free Enterprise is given editorial and column space in 99 per cent of the daily press is enough to make us obey the old railroad sign of Stop, Look and Listen, and until the N.A.M. and the newspapers that peddle

their propaganda explain more precisely what they really mean by the American System of Free Enterprise, we may take a look but we will hardly listen.

Now what is the small business man's attitude toward Free Enterprise? On the one hand, he has big business doing its utmost to stifle him and on the other hand trying to undersell him: He needs protection in the worst way, so much so that there are Federal and State laws just for that purpose alone. When the small business man talks of "Free Enterprise" you can rest assured that it is not the N.A.M. variety. And so with different classes of business men Free Enterprise means something different to everyone of them. So you can see how ambiguous the phrase is and why I am trying to tell you that it is just so many words but a trap for the unwary just the same.

FREE COOPERATION

A more suitable phrase would be that of "Free Cooperation," but I doubt very much if we will ever hear it on the radio or see it in the newspapers. A few progressive business men have adopted it and are working sincerely to make it work but they are hampered by the large majority, the Tafts and the Hartleys and their ilk who think that another nail in the workers' coffin is another nail to further secure the foundation of the palaces of industry. The 80th Congress clearly demonstrated this concept and even though the majority of Americans repudiated their actions in the November election they are still around at the same old stand. They are trying to sell you "Free Enterprise," don't buy it, you can't take it back for exchange.

S. F. Bricklayers Start 6-Hr. Day

Members of San Francisco Bricklayers Local 7 will go back to a six-hour day on March 7, it was announced last week by Edward L. Nolan, press committee man, and William Mulkeen, president.

WARTIME CHANGE

"The former joint agreement was changed," Nolan said, "due to wartime conditions, a shortage of manpower and general conditions of the time. Now the situation has changed."

He pointed out that Local 7 has between 40 and 50 men on the street at the present time. "Two years back it was written into the agreement that we would return to the six-hour day when conditions would warrant a change," he said. "The time is now at hand."

AFL POLICY

The change back to the shorter day, Nolan stated, is consistent with the policies of the American Federation of Labor and of the International Bricklayers Union "as recent public statements to the press will prove."

This change will not interfere with the standards set for city, state, federal and industrial employment at the present time, Nolan stated. It is effective only as it pertains to the agreement between the local and contractors.

Glove Workers Obtain 8 Per Cent Wage Hike

Ballston Spa, N. Y.—An 8 per cent wage increase for employees of the Ackand Knitting Co. here has been announced following negotiations between the company and Local 137 of the AFL Glove Workers Union.

Earl Will, local president, said the old contract would be continued "with some changes and adjustments." The new contract, which includes a union shop agreement, would become effective Feb. 1, he said.

In addition to the 8 per cent increase, employees will receive vacation pay ranging from 1 to 2½ per cent of gross earnings "depending on the hours worked."

The Ackand company, which has branches in Schuylerville and Oneonta, employs about 230 persons at its main branch at Ballston Spa.

New Building Code Is Drawn Up For Use Throughout the Nation

A new national building code has been issued by the National Board of Fire Underwriters for voluntary adoption in whole or part by state or local administrative authorities. It is a modern code, taking into recognition the many advances in building practice which tend to ease construction costs. Also it recognizes the new dimensions used in manufacturing many building materials today.

The code recognizes increased allowable stresses in lumber and steel, as a result of advances in quality control and experiences in the field. Another economy factor is the recognition of prefabricated flues in place of expensive masonry chimneys. In dwelling construction, the use of these flues results in considerable savings.

This new code, a revision of previous ones issued by the same organization and widely used in

America, covers all types of building construction, including among others motion picture theaters, open air parking garages, and windowless structures now increasingly used in many types of buildings.

With modern air conditioning and lighting, windows are no longer necessary or desirable in certain types of buildings. But a building without windows provides a severe handicap to fire departments by denying access to a fire. The code covers this problem by requiring automatic sprinkler protection in such structures.

The new code may be obtained without cost by any person concerned with building construction from offices of the National Board of Fire Underwriters here, or in Chicago or San Francisco. Cities adopting the code may obtain 25 copies free and additional copies at a nominal charge.

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N. J. Chemical Workers Win New Pay Increase

Bound Brook, N. J.—The Calco Chemical Division of American Cyanamid Co. signed a new agreement with the AFL International Chemical Workers Union, Local 111, increasing hourly pay 9 cents. The contract also increases afternoon and night shift differentials, and grants additional hourly premiums for Saturday and Sunday work.

LABOR MARKET BULLETIN

State Dept. of Employment
Current Employment: The freezing weather which prevailed during the early weeks of January in the Salinas local office area destroyed a considerable portion of the winter vegetable crops and seriously reduced employment in the fields, sheds and related activities. When the weather was favorable, an estimated 2,000 seasonal workers were employed in January in salvaging the damaged celery crop and in other agricultural activities. Work was intermittent throughout the month with many work days lost because of poor weather.

Employment Outlook: The employment outlook for the spring months remains favorable. There will be more jobs in construction than there are local workers available to fill them. The Moss Landing Steam Plant and the Medium Security Prison expansion will account for over \$60 million worth of building activity. This construction is expected to stimulate local activities and to create more jobs in retail trade and service. Seasonal work in agriculture and in packing sheds will be somewhat delayed, but as many men will be used this year as last year.

Labor Supply and Demand: The area now has and will continue to have a surplus of semi-skilled and unskilled workers for months to come if not throughout most of 1949. This labor has demonstrated its ability to do processing work and would be an excellent labor pool for new industry. Clerical workers are surplus in most occupations, but this situation is not expected to continue beyond May or June. It will be necessary to recruit outside of the area for certain skilled construction craftsmen such as boilermakers, electricians and steamfitters and high-pressure welders. Some indication of the level of local unemployment is given by the following table which shows the weekly average number of persons filing claims for unemployment insurance and servicemen's benefits:

January 1949	3,754
December 1948	2,667
January 1948	3,028

Community Facilities: There is available housing for single and family agricultural workers, but other rental housing in the Salinas Valley is difficult to find and rentals are high.

MONTEREY AREA

Current Employment: An abrupt decline in employment levels occurred in the Monterey local office area in January. The limitation on the size of sardines which could be caught legally became effective on January 15th and canning and fishing came to a close on January 31st after two weeks of sporadic operations. Speculative home building is practically at a standstill, adding skilled craftsmen and building laborers to the unemployed workers in the area.

Employment Trends: The local canneries operated intermittently between January 15th and January 31st on fish trucked in from Heueneme and then closed down completely by agreement within the industry.

Fishing and Canning: Fishing employment during the month was also sporadic as cold weather reduced the fish catch in local waters during the first half of the month. Price disagreements during the latter half of the month when local fishermen were operating in the southern area reduced the amount of fish taken and processed locally.

Construction: The financial failure of a large contracting firm brought the construction of one project of approximately 25 residential units to a standstill. Consumer resistance to high prices and difficulties in financing have retarded other new residential starts. No large-scale building projects have been started to overcome this slack in home building.

Government: Government employment is expected to maintain its present level at the four major installations in the area. Normal turnover will create the only openings in these establishments expected in the next few months.

Trade and Service: After the release of the few temporary workers hired for the Christmas trade, service and retail trade establishments have maintained their employment levels.

Labor Supply: Approximately 1,000 fishermen and 2,000 cannery workers are seeking work in the area. The resumption of squid processing is the only activity that could reabsorb these workers before April or May when the summer fish pack normally begins. In addition, there are unemployed construction workers, as well as a surplus of agricultural workers in Monterey County. Personnel adjustments which normally occur in local industries, plus the layoffs in these major local industries, have resulted in a sharp increase in the number of persons seeking unemployment insurance and servicemen's benefits during the month. In January, an average of 2,098 persons filed claims for these benefits as compared with 1,125 in December and 1,405 in January 1948.

MINUTES Bldg. Trades Council

Building & Construction Trades Council of Monterey County, 315 Alvarado Street, Monterey, Calif., Feb. 17, 1949. Held at 117 Pajaro Street, Salinas.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Alsop at 8:00 p.m. Roll call showed 11 delegates from 9 Local Unions present. Minutes of previous meeting Feb. 3, 1949, were read and approved. All bills were read and ordered paid.

COMMUNICATIONS

Minutes of the Santa Clara County Building and Construction Trades Council noted and filed. A letter from the State Building and Construction Trades Council concerning the minutes of the Steering and Organizational Committee of the State Building & Construction Trades Council read and filed. Minutes of the Monterey Central Labor Council read and filed. A letter from Hotel, Restaurant Employees and Bartenders L.U. No. 483, read and filed. A letter from General Teamsters & Warehousemen L.U. No. 890, concerning the Taxicab situation in Salinas, read and filed. A letter from General Teamsters and Warehousemen L.U. No. 890 concerning per capita tax of the Council, read and laid over for consideration at the next meeting in Monterey. A letter and resolution from the Civil Rights Congress read and filed.

After consideration it was moved (Bolin), seconded (Thomas) and carried that the letter and resolution from the Civil Rights Congress be complied with.

BUSINESS AGENT'S REPORT
Bro. Miller submitted his report in writing and made an oral report of his activities for the past two weeks.

Bro. Everly, Plumbers L.U. No. 503, reported on various negotiations in the Salinas area.

REPORTS OF UNIONS
Brickmasons L.U. No. 16—No report.

Carpenters L.U. No. 1323—No report.

Electricians L.U. No. 1072—Fales, good meeting. The electricians are endeavoring to have their charter changed.

Laborers L.U. No. 690—Casati, routine meeting.

Lathers L.U. No. 122—No report.

Plasterers L.U. No. 337—Stewart, good attendance.

Painters L.U. No. 272—Bolin, good meeting.

Plumbers L.U. No. 62—Hawkins, good meeting. One new member initiated.

Roofers L.U. No. 50—No report.

Sheet Metal Workers L.U. No. 304—Very small attendance at last meeting.

Plumbers L.U. No. 503, Salinas—Every, routine meeting. Can afford only 10c per capita tax.

GOOD AND WELFARE
Bro. Fales spoke briefly on the non-attendance of the Salinas locals at this meeting.

Financial report was read and approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
HARRY FOSTER,
Recording Secretary.

1,500,000 Homes Needed

Washington—The acute housing shortage requires a program to build 1,500,000 homes a year, in contract with the 925,000 units finished in 1948, President Richard J. Gray of the AFL Building and Construction Trades Dept. told a Senate Banking subcommittee last week. He also backed up proposals for public low-rent housing, loans to co-op projects, slum clearance, city redevelopment, and for housing research.



MISS STARDUST—A leading contender for the beauty title, Miss Stardust of 1949, lovely Geraldine Parker works out on the sands at Miami, Fla., with that lucky beach ball.

News Items About APPRENTICES

The Apprentice of Today Is the Journeyman of Tomorrow
(Courtesy of Dept. of Industrial Relations, Div. of Apprenticeship "Newsletter")

MONTEREY PENINSULA ELECTRICAL JAC

The following points were adopted as policy to be used in recommending apprentices for journeyman:

- (1) Preparation of test to indicate ability;
- (2) Evaluation made in accordance with major blocks of the trade as indicated by the work experience record cards;
- (3) Responsibility of apprentices to keep their work experience records up to date.

Evaluations and recommendations for certification of candidates for journeyman will be completed at the JAC meeting on February 21.

MONTEREY PENINSULA CARPENTERS JAC

The committee feels that many firms are unaware of their responsibilities and of the over-all apprenticeship program and, therefore, desires to have contractors seeking approval to train apprentices, appear before them for complete discussion before approval is recommended.

SALINAS CARPENTRY JAC

Four apprentices appeared at the last meeting at the request of the committee to discuss the desirability of continuing in training with their present firm. It was determined that the type of construction work now being done by the firm does not offer the necessary experience and training, in conformity with the adopted standards. The JAC will, therefore, transfer these apprentices to other employers as soon as possible so that complete training may be given them.

'Pay Honest Legislators Living Wage'

Washington.—Although AFF President William Green told the Senate Labor Committee in plain words last week that he was not considering a plan to make outright payments to state legislators to help defray their expenses, more than one person agreed that something ought to be done about the situation.

Sen. Murray (D., Mont.) asked Green if it wasn't true that many corporations and employers in the states helped pay the expenses of legislators, and Green agreed that it was.

The whole question brought this comment from the Machinist, weekly publication of the Int'l Association of Machinists:

"Our hat is off to Labor's League for Political Education for the dramatic way it has called attention to the starvation wages paid to state legislators.

"A man or woman has always had to be independently wealthy in order to accept election to a state legislature, or he or she has had to be on somebody's payroll. That somebody, of course, 'as always been an employer corporation. In its report on state legislatures to the recent AFL Executive Council meeting, the LLPE recalled that once, in Wisconsin, some socialist union members passed the hat to help a liberal member of the Wisconsin legislature.

"The daily newspapers seized on this report as the basis for the charge that the AFL was planning to subsidize state legislators. The editorial writers immediately came out against it.

"We congratulate the LLPE for focusing public attention on the need for every state to pay its legislators a living wage so they won't need subsidies from labor—or from employer corporations."

AFL Musicians Union Aids Symphony Unit

WASHINGTON.—For the first time in history the District Musicians Union has taken out a membership in the National Symphony Orchestra Association and has forwarded its contribution to the 19th Annual Sustaining Fund.

The executive board of Local 161, American Federation of Musicians, voted to join the association. At the same time, the musicians appointed Pianist Sylvia Altman to head a committee on labor unions to "apprise upon union membership in all fields of the value of maintaining a resident orchestra."

Manufacturing is an important industry in California.

CARPENTER ROUNDUP

Salinas Carpenters Union 925
Geo. R. Harter, Bus. Agent

President Tom Mill and Business Agent George R. Harter of Carpenters Union 925 have been elected as delegates to the California State Council of Carpenters convention in San Jose this week end.

They will report to the union membership at the next meeting.

Business Agent Harter attended the recent meeting of business representatives of the craft at Stockton where the question of whether or not to seek a new contract and wage scale for carpenters in Northern California was discussed.

He reports that it was agreed to go into negotiations with the Associated General Contractors for a new wage rate sometime in March. A meeting of union officials is expected to be held soon to consider demands.

About 100 carpenters have cleared through Local 925 to the Stone & Webster job of building the P. G. & E. steam plant at Moss Landing.

While more men will be sent to the job, there are enough now signed to the employment list in offices of Local 925 to fill all requirements until the end of June.

Many carpenters from throughout the country are coming in daily seeking employment at Moss Landing. There will be no more names added to the list for some time and carpenters here are urged to inform their friends not to apply as there will be no more work for some time.

Difficulties between unions here and state officials who have charge of construction work at the site of the new Soledad prison project have been cleared up with the promise that free labor, under contractors, will do the rest of the work at the prison.

Anson Boyd, state architect drafting plans for the new \$10,000,000 prison, said plans will not be ready for the call for bids for at least another month.

Stolte, Inc., has started work on the new S. H. Kress store in the Valley Center business tract and carpenter are starting work on footings and foundations now.

Jess Conover, well known member of Local 925, suffered injuries in a fall while on a job recently. Details were not known.

Key men at the P. G. & E. project are getting instructions through meetings at Carpenters Hall. They are being shown film slides to explain construction details.

N. Y. Printing Pressmen Approve New Contract
New York.—Members of the Newspaper Printing Pressmen's Union No. 2 approved on a referendum vote an agreement with the Publishers Association of New York City providing a \$9-a-week pay increase, amounting to 10.6 percent.



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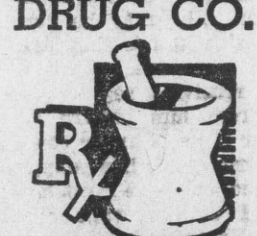
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REMEMBER TO ATTEND YOUR MEETING which will be held this Thursday, March 3, at the Carpenters Hall, 422 No. Main Street, Salinas, at 8 p.m. BE SURE TO BRING YOUR DUES BOOK TO THE MEETING or a receipt to evidence your paid up membership in the Union, or you will not be admitted to the meeting.

Contracts presently being negotiated are as follows: Lumber, lettuce, ice and milk. The milk industry meeting will be held in the near future for the members in regards to this contract. Watch this column for further information on these contracts.

Brother Albert Harris, who is a member of the National Produce Council, has just returned from a Policy Committee meeting which was held in Los Angeles. A definite policy has been set up to protect our interests in the lettuce industry this coming season; and also to protect our sister Local 912 and its members, from any discrimination by the employer or by any dual union. This policy is set up on a national basis and will be most effective in the event some employer decides that he will discharge AFL people for not belonging to other unions not of their choosing, and finds that his produce ceases to be handled by members of the Teamsters Union in the eastern markets. The Grower-Shippers will be charged with the responsibility of forcing this issue the first time they fire any A.F.L. people for not joining C.I.O. unions.

REMEMBER THAT THE TEXHOMA CAB COMPANY, comprised of Ace Cabs, Dependable Cabs, and City Cabs, is on the "WE DO NOT PATRONIZE" list. When you ride in these cabs you are tearing down the wages and conditions of members of the union, as it automatically reflects back to you. Spend your union money at union places of business that are paying legitimate wages and giving union conditions under legitimate union contracts.

We strongly urge all of our members to patronize only those companies working under union contracts.

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AMERICA'S HOUSING NEEDS

By RICHARD J. GRAY,
President, AFL Building and Construction Trades Department

(This is the first of a series of articles on legislative action to meet America's housing needs based on the testimony presented by Richard J. Gray, president of the AFL Building and Construction Trades Department, before the Housing Subcommittee of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee.)

For many years, and particularly since the war, the AFL has urged upon Congress the prime necessity of a comprehensive national housing program, one which would meet the housing needs of all American families. Because of our dual interest in solving the housing shortage—as representatives both of the 2,000,000 workers employed by the construction industry and of 7,500,000 workers interested in comfortable sanitary living quarters—we had hoped that such a program

would have been launched long before the present time. We were extremely disappointed when the 79th and 80th Congresses failed to enact legislation which would have made possible the inauguration of a housing program for all of the people.

SHORTAGE STILL ACUTE
The failure in previous sessions of Congress to enact adequate housing legislation means that now, three and one-half years after V-J Day, the nation is still confronted with an acute housing shortage. I will not repeat the detailed statistics which you have heard so many times describing the extent of the housing shortage. It has been said again that we should be building homes at the rate of 1,500,000 units a year if we are to lick the housing shortage within the next decade.

ONLY 925,000
Last year under the most favorable circumstances the private building industry was able to construct only about 925,000 units. This is less than two-thirds the number of homes which should have been built during 1948. Every forecast for 1949 is for even fewer privately constructed homes. By this record the private building industry has shown itself incapable of housing the American people.

Even more alarming than the deficiency in the number of new homes or apartments are being built for sale or rent at prices average families can afford to pay. In many communities in all parts of the country there are virtually no houses for sale at less than \$10,000.

PRICES TOO HIGH
With selling prices of new homes at such terrifically high levels, we feel that it is both economically unsound and grossly unfair to encourage low-income or even moderate income families to invest their life savings in new homes. Therefore, the primary need at the present time is for rental housing. Yet only about 17 per cent of the new units constructed in 1948 are so-called "rental-type" dwellings, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The percentage for 1949 is expected to be only slightly higher.

RENTS TOO HIGH
Moreover, the few rental units which are being constructed are being offered at rents far above what average families can afford to pay. According to reports received late in 1948 by the Housing Expediter from over 1000 cities and towns in all of the 48 states, the average monthly rent for newly constructed apartments was \$115.65. Clearly, we have been devoting our time and energies building housing only for families in the upper-income groups.

60% OF FAMILIES!
Figures for family income, recently reported by the Bureau of Census, indicate that in 1947 more than a fifth of all families had incomes of less than \$2000 and that another two-fifths had incomes between \$2000 and \$4000. These families are simply unable to buy or rent the homes now being constructed by private builders. We must develop a comprehensive housing program to meet the needs of this 60 per cent of the nation's families.

IT'S POCKETBOOK
We feel that the only way of securing decent homes for families in the lowest income brackets is through an extensive low-rent public housing program. The needs of the middle-income families can only be met by legislation encouraging construction of large-scale rental and cooperative housing projects with rents or monthly payments low enough to fit their family pocketbook. In addition, we think it is essential that an adequate housing program be developed for the hundreds of thousands of farm workers, many of whom are living in hovels much worse than even our urban slums.

Since 1908, the principal raw materials for making portland cement in the United States have been limestone and clay or shale.

AIDED BY UMW Welfare Fund—
The first group of paralyzed coal miners to be hospitalized in Washington under the program of the United Mine Workers (unaffiliated) welfare and retirement fund arrive in the nation's capital. They are unable to walk due to nerve injuries caused by mining accidents.

Fatigue is Chief Cause of Job Accidents

(State Fed. Release)

San Francisco—More workers suffer disabling industrial injuries between 10 and 11 in the morning and between 3 and 4 in the afternoon than at any other hours of the day. Such was the report released by the Division of Labor Statistics and Research of the State of California.

In the morning, the number of accidents increases steadily each hour to reach a peak between 10 and 11 a.m. The number drops slightly between 11 and 12 but remains relatively high. After a very sharp decrease during the noon hour the number again begins to build up to reach a second peak between 3 and 4. It appears that this same regular daily fluctuation in the relative frequency of accidents during different hours occurs in almost every industry.

This general pattern was disclosed in an analysis of the time-of-day factor in 10,000 disabling industrial injuries reported to the Division of Labor Statistics and Research during August 1948, and relates to accidents which occurred during the second half of July and the first half of August. The data was obtained from the employers' reports of industrial injuries required to be filed with the Division.

For a more complete analysis of the time factor, it would have been desirable to tabulate data on the length of time the injured persons had been at work prior to the accident and time of lunch period, but such information was not available. Also desirable would have been the number of persons employed each hour so that the number of injuries could be related to employment.

The study itself is detailed and is very significant. It should be extremely interesting to those concerned with this subject.

Research Shows 'Real' Wage Lower

Rising prices have wiped out every gain made by workers in the past six years. That blunt fact was underlined this week in "Labor's Monthly Survey," research organ of the AFL.

The Survey points out that from 1939 to 1942 noticeable advances were made in the organized worker's real wages. However, after 1942 the "Little Steel formula" halted boosts in wages. Prices kept rising and take-home pay also rose because of the long hours worked in the war industries.

After the war, overtime earnings vanished, but prices continued to rise. Wage increases since the war have lagged behind living costs. "What remains to the worker today," the Survey said, "is the real wage he had in 1942."

In other words, all labor wage gains made since that time have been used up by the rapid rise of living costs.

Party Boats Good

Terminal Island.—Best ocean fishing of the year was reported by party boat operators in December, when each of 1917 sport anglers landed an average of 10 fish a day.

Records were compiled by the California Division of Fish and Game from reports submitted by boat owners operating from Santa Cruz, San Francisco Bay, Monterey, Avila, Port Hueneme, Santa Monica Bay, Los Angeles Harbor, Newport, and San Diego.

The party boat catch of ocean fish in December included: 12,710 rockfish; 2010 ocean white fish; 1460 sole, sand dabs; flounders; 920 rock and sand bass; 650 Pacific mackerel; 390 lingcod; 370 sculpin; 1140 other species.

Must Double U.S. Rate of Hydro Power

Washington—Meeting in relative privacy as Taft-Hartley and week-hour hearings shared the capital spotlight, the Senate interior and insular affairs committee Feb. 1 heard Interior Dept. officials outline plans for large scale development of U. S. resources.

Undersec. of Interior Oscar L. Chapman told the senators that energy is the key to national wealth. He said "if I had to estimate the per capita output in a foreign country or in the U. S., I could do a more accurate job if I were told the volume of energy use than if I were told any other single magnitude."

Chapman said it was President Truman's objective to increase total national production several percent each year. On that basis Chapman estimated that provision should be made for increasing output by a third over the next decade.

Power shortages already exist, particularly in the northwest. On the basis of this fact and the expected increase in production as a whole, Chapman said, "the power capacity of the nation should at least be doubled in the next decade or so."

He went on to say that "of the additional capacity, a substantial part should be hydroelectric." He outlined the way in which the Interior Department and other government agencies hoped to harness western rivers by dams and thus produce electric power.

Advantages of hydroelectric power include the points that water power belongs to the public and that water power is inexhaustible, Chapman said. He pointed out that "it is contrary to the national interest to continue to permit our inexhaustible water power to be wasted while we greatly expand the power generating capacity fuel with oil, natural gas and coal."

Interested listeners to Chapman's testimony included representatives of the private utility corporations. Expansion of government owned hydroelectric power capacity is considered certain to run into private utility opposition.

It is believed likely that one of the major fights of the 81st Congress will follow any serious attempt by the administration to carry out its public power program. Early in the New Deal, the Tennessee Valley Authority was created, realizing the lifelong goal of the late Sen. George W. Norris. TVA is now accepted widely as a success, but further government inroads into what the private utilities consider their province were bitterly opposed and brought to a stop in the 80th Congress.

Interior Department officials also outlined the huge expansion of other resources which would be necessary to keep pace with an expanding economy. The testimony listed minerals already in short supply which must be found to maintain industrial expansion and high employment. Similar programs were developed for range land and controlled yield forestry.

The High Price Of False Teeth

Washington.—If you paid too much for that set of choppers you should know the reason why. The Federal Trade Commission has charged the American Dental Trade Association with a conspiracy "to eliminate competition in the manufacture and distribution of dental goods."

Manufacturers belonging to the Dental Association make more than 75 per cent of all dental goods distributed in the U.S., and that includes not only false teeth but drugs, fillings, all the instruments and appliances used, and even the chairs and office furniture.

Cited in the FTC complaint were 144 dealers and manufacturers in 36 states, accused by the Commission of monopolizing the industry and scheming to keep prices up. The association polices the industry, the complaint says, by reporting to the officers and committees any dealers who get out of line on pricing and selling policies. Then the heat's put on the alleged "price violators" in various ways. The Dental Association carries on a constant campaign against non-members and refuses to sell products except to "those with whom trade relations have been established."

Paperhangers' Local Marks 49th Anniversary

Evansville, Ind.—Paperhangers Local 464 recently celebrated its 49th anniversary. Of the 30 charter members of the organization in 1900, Rudolph Constance and Herbert Harns are the only two remaining on the membership roll.

The union is today one of 10 strictly paperhangers unions in the American Federation of Labor and the only exclusive paperhangers union in Indiana. Affiliation with the AFL Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America was negotiated by Charles Geisz in 1900.

LABOR COUNCIL NOTES

Monterey County Central Labor Union, Salinas, California
WILLIAM G. KENYON, Secretary

Steps to seek repeal of the Salinas city anti-picketing ordinance were taken by the Monterey County Central Labor Union at Salinas last week, according to Secretary William G. Kenyon. The council, after a report by a special committee studying the ordinance and its effects and ramifications, voted to send a letter to the Salinas City Council to ask that the ordinance be repealed.

Further action to consult with legal authorities on the ordinance and related matters was taken, Kenyon said.

Support of Judge J. Jeffries for appointment as new judge in the county was voted by the labor council.

Letters were to be sent to Governor Earl Warren, urging him to appoint Jeffries, and also to the Monterey County Bar Association, asking that this group support the move for Jeffries' appointment.

Robert Mercer, head of the Salinas office of the State Department of Employment, addressed the labor council meeting briefly in behalf of the Red Cross fund campaign.

In an effort to contact all unions to urge fullest support of the Red Cross drive, the council named a special publicity committee of Secretary Kenyon, Fred Clayton and H. Bronson.

Unit reports included:
Barbers 827 reported new officers installed, donation sent to "Guide Dogs for the Blind."

Teamsters 890 reported on dispute with Barrett Butane Co., future meetings to be held in Salinas Moose Hall, beginning in April.

Teachers 1060 reported negotiations started for teacher salary increases in Salinas, progress in organizing effort.

Laborers 272 reported many new members and meetings now so big that steps must be taken to find a larger meeting hall.

Vindication for AFL Red Position

The World Federation of Trades Unions has folded up as a result of actions taken at Paris recently where the world body met.

Set up during the early years of the war, when Russian-American relations were more friendly, the World Federation was intended to be the voice of world trade unionism. Instead, with delegates from post-war France, Italy and Soviet satellite countries in the majority, the organization developed into one more front for party-line propaganda.

NO SOAP!
Strenuous efforts were made to bring the AFL into the group but its political complexion was not in accord with the democratic ideals of the AFL and these efforts were soundly rebuffed.

The action at Paris which meant the death knell of the reds' World Federation was the withdrawal of British Trade Union Congress delegates, who represented about 8,000,000 British unionists. This action left the CIO out on an uncomfortable red limb and there was nothing for that organization to do but pull out too.

Thus the AFL's years of vigorous opposition to the WFTU was finally vindicated.

Security for Wife

A wife becomes eligible for social security benefits at age 65, provided her husband is receiving benefits and she meets certain qualifications and makes application.

The requirements for a wife are: First, she must be living with her husband at the time of making application. She may be considered living with him if they are members of the same household, or if she is receiving regular contributions from him toward her support, or if he is under court order to contribute to her support.

Second, the wife must have been married to the wage earner at least 36 months before the month that she applies for benefits.

Wives, of wage earner 65 years of age or older, are invited to visit the social security office to check on their possible eligibility for benefits.

Those wives who have themselves worked under social security may be entitled to a larger payment on their own record of earnings than by taking one-half of the husband's benefit rate. They receive whichever is the larger, but not both types of benefits.

South America, in population, is the fastest-growing continent in the world.

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IBEW Man Is Sent to Paris

Washington.—Economic Cooperation Administrator Paul G. Hoffman announced the appointment of Daniel T. Cruse as trade union relations representative on the staff of Boris Shishkin, chief of the labor division of the Office of the Special Representative in Paris.

Cruse, who is president of Local 794 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, Chicago, will leave for Paris to take up his new duties. He will be responsible for maintaining close relations with European trade unions with a view to bringing to them a better understanding of the European Recovery Program and enlisting their cooperation in the plan.

From 1944 to 1947, Cruse was labor relations adviser to the Chicago regional administrator of the Office of Price Administration. He had long experience in labor relations problems, having represented electrical workers on the Illinois Central railway system under the National Railway Labor Act and employees of the Postal Telegraph Co. under the Wagner Act.

Of his appointment, Bert M. Jewell and Clinton S. Golden, labor advisers to Mr. Hoffman, said: "We feel fortunate in obtaining the services of Dan Cruse. His wide labor and government experience well fit him for the tough job ahead of him. His abilities will be a great asset to the work of the labor office in Paris."

Cruse, who is 46, is married and has two daughters, who will accompany him to Paris, and a son. His home in Chicago.

Plumbers' Local Founds Blood Bank for Children

New York City.—Local 2, United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry, is establishing a special blood bank at Memorial Hospital for all children in the area suffering from cancer and allied diseases.

The recommendation for the project came from the Rev. William J. Kelley, chairman of the New York State Labor Relations Board. The union, numbering 5000 members, in Manhattan and the Bronx, will name the blood bank in Father Kelley's honor.

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